

Appl. No. 10/650,505
Amdt. Dated September 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 81872.0051
Customer No. 26021

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell comprising:
placing a substrate for a solar cell on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or through a tray;
covering said substrate with a plate ~~with a distance, wherein said plate is not in direct contact with said substrate,~~ wherein said plate is not in direct contact with said substrate, wherein said plate comprises an obstacle with a plurality of obstacle forming members that inhibit a part of gas and plasma from passing through said plate; and
forming textures on a surface of said substrate by using residues ~~being,~~ wherein said residues chiefly composed of comprise components of said substrate as an etching mask.

14. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said substrate is made of silicon.

15. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said plate covers said substrate while a distance of 5 mm to 30 mm is between the substrate and plate.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell, comprising:
placing a substrate on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or
through a tray;

covering said substrate with a plate ~~with a distance, wherein said plate is not~~ in direct contact with said substrate, ~~the said~~ plate being provided with a number of opening portions, wherein said plate inhibits a part of gas and plasma from passing through said plate; and

etching the substrate by a reactive ion etching method;
wherein textures are formed on a surface of said substrate by using residues,
wherein said residues chiefly comprise components of said substrate, and said plate is cleaned on a surface side concurrently.

19. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 20, wherein said first and second substrates are etched by a reactive ion etching method.

20. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell comprising:
placing a first substrate for a solar cell on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or through a tray;

covering said first substrate with a plate ~~with a distance, wherein said plate is not in direct contact with said first substrate,~~ said plate being provided with a number of opening portions;

forming textures on a surface of said first substrate and cleaning said plate on a surface side concurrently,

placing a second substrate inside the chamber, with said plate positioned such that the surface side and a back surface side thereof being reversed after said

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plate is cleaned on the surface side, and forming textures on a surface of said second substrate.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein an opening portion is provided between neighboring obstacle forming members.

24. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 23, wherein an open area ratio of said obstacle is 5 to 40%.

25. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle forming members are a plurality of long members aligned with a clearance in between.

26. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 25, wherein said long member is a bar-shaped or sheet member.

27. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle forming member comprises a mesh woven by crossing plurality of long members over and under with each other.

28. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle comprises a plurality of obstacles of a stacked structure.

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29. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 28, wherein said obstacle comprises a member formed by stacking a plurality of long members aligned with a clearance in between, in different directions.

30. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 13, wherein said obstacle forming member is made of one kind or a combination of two or more kinds selected from a group consisting of materials (a), (b), and (c) as follows:

- (a) a glass-based material;
- (b) a metal material; and
- (c) a resin material.

31. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 30, wherein said metal material is an aluminum-based material.

32. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 18, wherein said plate is structured in such a manner that a surface and a back surface can be reversed.

33. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 32, wherein the surface and the back surface of said plate are of substantially a same shape.

34. (Currently amended) A method for producing a solar cell comprising:
placing a substrate for a solar cell on an RF electrode provided inside a chamber, directly or through a tray;

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covering said substrate with a plate ~~with a distance, wherein said plate is not in direct contact with said substrate,~~ said plate being provided with a number of opening portions, wherein said plate inhibits a part of a gas and plasma from passing through said plate; and

forming textures on a surface of said substrate by using residues ~~being, wherein said residues chiefly composed of comprise~~ components of said substrate as ~~an etching mask.~~

35. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein an open area ratio of said obstacle is 5 to 40%.

36. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said substrate is made of silicon.

37. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said plate covers said substrate while a distance of 5 mm to 30 mm is between the substrate and plate.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said obstacle is made of one kind or a combination of two or more kinds selected from a group consisting of materials (a), (b), and (c) as follows:

- (a) a glass-based material;
- (b) a metal material; and
- (c) a resin material.

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40. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 39, wherein said metal material is an aluminum-based material.

41. (Previously presented) The method for producing a solar cell according to Claim 34, wherein said substrate is etched by a reactive ion etching method.